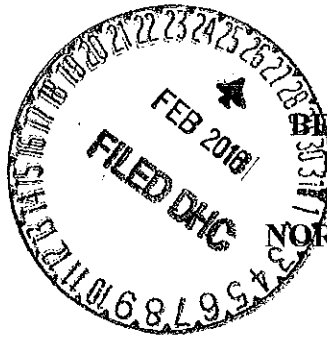


NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY



BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY  
HEARING COMMISSION  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

FILE NO. 02 BCS 04 & 16 BCR 2

**In the Matter of:**  
**Petition for Reinstatement of**  
**MICHAEL L. YOPP**

**PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT**

NOW COMES the Petitioner, Michael L. Yopp, and petitions the North Carolina State Bar for reinstatement of his license to practice law. In support of this Petition, the Petitioner shows the following:

1. On July 19, 2002, Petitioner was disbarred from the practice of law in North Carolina by order of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission (DHC) of the North Carolina State Bar in case number 02 BCS 04 upon the voluntary surrender of Petitioner's license.
2. That not more than six months or less than 60 days before filing this petition for reinstatement, a notice of intent to seek reinstatement has been published by the petitioner in an official publication of the North Carolina State Bar requesting that all interested individuals file notice of their opposition or concurrence with the secretary within 60 days after the date of publication;
3. That not more than six months or less than 60 days before filing the petition for reinstatement, the petitioner has notified the complainant(s) in the disciplinary proceeding which led to the lawyer's disbarment of the notice of intent to seek reinstatement. The notice specified that each complainant had 60 days in which to raise objections or support the lawyer's petition;
4. The petitioner has reformed and presently possesses the moral qualifications required for admission to practice law in this state taking into account the gravity of the misconduct which resulted in the order of disbarment;
5. Permitting the petitioner to resume the practice of law within the state will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the Bar, to the administration of justice, or to the public interest, taking into account the gravity of the misconduct which resulted in the order of disbarment;

6. The Petitioner's citizenship has been restored after satisfactorily completing all conditions of the judgment entered after petitioner was convicted of the commission of a felony which arose out of the incidents leading to the Petitioner's disbarment;

7. The Petitioner has complied with Rule .0124 of this subchapter;

8. The Petitioner has complied with all applicable orders of the commission and the council;

9. The Petitioner has complied with the orders and judgments of any court relating to the matters resulting in the disbarment;

10. The Petitioner has not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law during the period of disbarment;

11. The Petitioner has not engaged in any conduct during the period of disbarment constituting grounds for discipline under G.S. 84-28(b);

12. The Petitioner understands the current Rules of Professional Conduct and has availed himself to continuing legal education programs in ethics and professional responsibility during his period of disbarment.

13. The Petitioner has reimbursed the Client Security Fund of the North Carolina State Bar for all sums, including costs other than overhead expenses, disbursed by the Client Security Fund as a result of the petitioner's misconduct.

12. There are no funds which the Disciplinary Hearing Commission found in the order of disbarment were misappropriated by the petitioner which have not been reimbursed by the Client Security Fund.

13. The Petitioner paid all dues, Client Security Fund assessments, and late fees owed to the North Carolina State Bar as well as all attendee fees and late penalties due and owing to the Board of Continuing Legal Education at the time of disbarment.

14. Petitioner is active in his community and has maintained a good reputation within the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar, the District and Superior Court Bench, the Offices of the Clerks of Superior Court and his community at large during the period of his disbarment.

15. The Petitioner has been a single parent throughout the period of disbarment and Petitioner has the trust, respect and support of his children and the parents of the peers of his children;

16. The Petitioner has held positions of trust within various organizations within his community including being an officer of the Triton High School Athletic Booster Club and the Triton FFA Alumni Association and has been otherwise active in his community.

17. The Petitioner has endeavored to counsel young members of the Bar regarding the practice of law and the importance of conducting themselves within the bound of the Rules of Professional Conduct and with professionalism.

18. The Petitioner has successfully completed the recommended course of treatment of the Friends Program and acknowledges that the same probably saved his life.

19. That at the time of his violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and subsequent tender of his license, this Petitioner suffered from severe depression, co-dependency and chronic "self-medication" with the use of alcohol from which this Petitioner has fully recovered.

20. That the Petitioner is not an abuser of alcohol or other controlled substances and is not suffering from any mental disability.

21. That the Petitioner freely and willingly acknowledges his wrongdoing, his mental condition and other disabilities that existed at the time of his disbarment and has reformed and recovered in such a manner so as to present no further danger to the general public, the integrity of the Bar, and the administration of justice at large.

22. That this Petitioner wishes to resume the practice of law and promote the general appreciation and perception of the profession in such a manner as is consistent with the finest traditions of the North Carolina State Bar and those which this Petitioner exemplified prior to the disciplinary action resulting in his disbarment.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays:

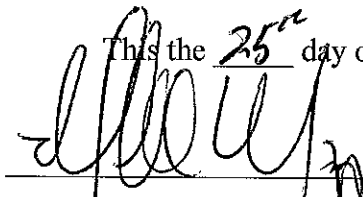
1. That the Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission appoints a Hearing Commission Panel to hear this Petition for Reinstatement within 14 days of its filing as provided in Rule B.O125(a)(6) of the applicable Rules of the North Carolina State Bar and notify Petitioner upon scheduling a time and place for said hearing.

2. That, after hearing and considering the evidence presented at said hearing, the Hearing Commission Panel files a report recommending to the Council of the North Carolina State Bar the restoration and reinstatement to active status the Petitioner's

license to practice law in the State of North Carolina, with any conditions that they might feel appropriate;

3. That the Council of the North Carolina State Bar, after reviewing the report of the Hearing Commission Panel and the record of said hearing, enter an Order restoring and reinstating the Petitioner's license to practice law within the General Courts of Justice within the State of North Carolina with the precondition of having to take and successfully pass the North Carolina State Bar Examination;

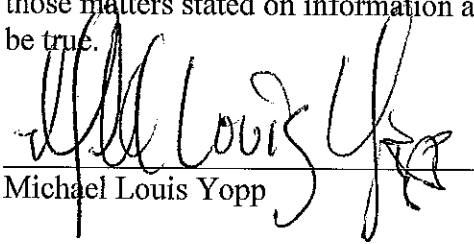
This the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.



Michael L. Yopp, Petitioner  
State Bar No. 16992 (Disbarred)

## VERIFICATION

I, Michael Louis Yopp, after first being duly sworn, do depose and say that I am familiar with the contents of the foregoing Petition for Reinstatement; that the assertions/allegations contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

  
Michael Louis Yopp

Sworn to and subscribed to before  
me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 7/18/20

JOANN Z. HERNANDEZ  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
HARNETT COUNTY, NC  
My Commission Expires 7/18/20